MAY 1995

THE EL PASO CANAL

The April program was presented by Dr. Curt Poulton, professor at The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and also a fellow member of OCCHS.

Dr. Poulton began by explaining how easy it is for us to ignore the history and importance of such as the El Paso Canal.

He used his maps to illustrate early and present-day points. A result of his extensive research and recording, the area's flume and ditches are marked and labeled with a color scheme on his maps, to distinguish location and type of flumes and ditches.

On the West Side, a dam at what is now 31st Street created two ditches. One ditch provided power for the grist mill located there and also irrigation. The other was the El Paso Canal. He pointed out the

large number of ditches that existed at various times along Ruxton, Fountain, Cheyenne and Bear Creeks.

As General William J. Palmer planned to build Colorado Springs, he incorporated his love for this area and colonized and merged aspects of landscaping with function. His wife, Queen, was not impressed with the area as much as he was, and preferred Europe with its refined things. The General transformed this area to appease Queen and attract wealthy "old money" from the East, who would bring architecture, art, and the finer things with them. A story was told about Queen on an excursion to Manitou Park. Queen was not enjoying anything about the trip, neither the dust nor the roughness of the road. She demanded that

her carriage driver stop. She proceeded to lie under a bush, where she kicked and screamed for a while, and then without a word and with pureblood dignity returned to her coach.

The Fountain Colony, as well as other endeavors, was financed by money acquired in the last century, by Britons who had succeeded in the Industrial Revolution and were looking for further investments. This area was a wonderful place in which to invest because of available resources. Conversion of the area from short-grass prairies did become accomplished, as a result.

In August of 1871, Palmer and others of the Fountain Colony and Colorado Springs Company planned streets and plantings.

The trees would need water.

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ARTIST TO HONOR PROSPECTORS

OUR MAY PROGRAM

Cloyd R. Barnes, a nationally renowned artist and sculptor, will present the program at the next OCCHS meeting to be held at Trinity Methodist Church, 701 North 20th Street (just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center), at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 12, 1995.

Cloyd will present a proposal for a statue depicting the prospector

and his burro be placed at the northwest corner of Highway 24 and 21st Street.

Mr. Barnes will have an actual wax model of his statue and show slides in his presentation. This will be a historical undertaking to the past and present prospectors that have passed, and are still passing through our area. These men and women

helped to develop our area, and should be so recognized.

Cloyd R. Barnes was born in Hartford, Arkansas, the son of a coal miner/farmer/rancher. Thus he grew up with horses, and early memories were deeply rooted in saddle leather and the fascinating ways of a horse. He earned his B.S. in Physics from Tulsa

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

WESTWORD

PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF ALMOST EVERY MONTH BY THE OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY A NONPROFIT CORPORATION OCCHS @1995

LETTERS, ARTICLES AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE OCCHS OR MAILED TO: PAUL IDLEMAN

1939 Giltshire Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80904-4227 633-7803

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th DAY OF EACH MONTH

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City (1859-1917), to encourage research, preserve pictures, and keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs through education of children and the community and through the eventual establishment of a History Center at One South 24th Street.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are welcome at any time, and are renewed in April. Members receive the West Word and local members are phoned prior to the meeting if desired.

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

Individual.....\$10 Family......\$15 Lifetime.....\$150

Funds from a Lifetime Membership are placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment Fund to be used only for projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. Only the interest will be used for current expenses. We welcome gifts to this fund, which will be credited to the donor or as a memorial.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	
Vice President	
Secretary	200
Treasurer	

Lucille Cunningham	630-7578
Jan Knox	689-2355
Marty Walker	630-3901
Mary Jo Wallace	392-3337
Betty Jean Baker	
Vera Chambon	634-2340
Jean Christopher	634-1803
Ralph Conner	634-0895
Orrin Haynes	635-2488
Paul Idleman	633-7803
Joyce Johns	635-4649
Leon Young	633-2621

MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July and August. The public is welcome; reservations are not required. Reservations are required for the luncheon following the meeting. Luncheon cost is usually \$5 per person.

Please phone Lyn Owen at 473-1846 by the Tuesday prior to the meeting. You may leave a message at any time. If you find you cannot attend, please call to cancel.

MEETING THIS MONTH

May 12, 1995

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 701 NORTH 20th STREET (JUST WEST OF UINTAH GARDENS)

NEXT MEETING - June 9, 1995



ROLL CALL

MONTHLY LUNCHEON MEETING 4/14/1995 54 members and 22 visitors signed in at our last meeting.

Kay Arnold Doris Baab Betty Jean Baker Ed & Nancy Bathke Beulah Butler Rosemae Campbell Jean Christopher Ralph Conner Art Crawford Ed & Martha Curry Beverly Disch Chuck & Liz Geiss Veda Goosman Eileen Graham Alfred Hagedorn Marjorie Harris Orrin Havnes Catherine Henderson Rosemary Hetzler Ann Hiskey Dr. Jerome & Helen Jekel Ellen Knowlton Owen & Jan Knox Olive Langston Donald McGilchrist Helen Michelson Doug & Patrice Neely Lvn Owen John B. Parks lack & Bev Patterson Curt Poulton

Maloa Read Jim & Virginia Rogers Arthur & Clair Ruby Martha Simons Marion Steavenson Gene Tarbert Bascom & Jean Tillotson Jud & Mary Jo Wallace Charles & Mary Weiss Bessie Wreath

VISITORS

Renee Bailey Georgia Croff Pauline Harper Karla Heffner Audralee Holland Mary Lowes Francis Maldenhauer Tom & Vivian McWrenter Dennis & Kristina Meeman Pat Nanninga Alice Page Gerri Paglay Geri Pegler Grage & Ed Peterson Janet Polley Pauline Price Alice Rockers Barbara Webb Hank Worley

Treasury Report

	reasury repe	110	
INCOME	Memberships Building Funds Memorial Gifts Interest Roster Sales Annuals Sales Santa Rides Treasure Sales contrib Mystery fundraiser	366.00 456.00 169.00 34.85 80.50 28.00 307.00 25.00 1,787.00	
EXPENSE	postage PP Journal 3-mo deposit newsletter printing utilities (3 months) Guest lunches copy records office supply/misc'l promo Museum Records History Center basement Designation expense Grant expense Events - St Patrick's Parade Speaker, March Mystery Theater June Tea Territory Days Locks for History Center	13.94 291.92 228.25 603.60 20.00 15.94 29.60 32.92 157.50 862.25 25.89 4.26 300.00 200.00 828.00 250.00 100.00 47.56	

Election to the Board Notice

Friday, May 12, 1995 11:00 A.M.

The election will be held at:

The Regular General Meeting Trinity United Methodist Church 701 N. 20th Street

There will be several positions on the Board of Directors which will need to be filled. Several People have expressed interest to serve in various capacities. If you are interested in serving on our Board or in any other position because of your area of expertise, please send a Bio-sketch to the Acting Chairman of the Nominating Committee:

ELLEN KNOWLTON
701 PLEASANT STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904
PHONE - 632-9243

OCCHS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Old Colorado City Historical Society welcomes your involvement. We need volunteers to work events and serve on committees. There are many projects and activities to choose from. OCCHS is growing rapidly and accomplishing many wonderful things. Please call if you can help or need further information.

Marty Walker 630-3901

TIME TO RENEW??

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Application

Membership Application ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift from				
Name				
Address				
City	State			
Phone(s)	ZIP			
☐ I WOULD NOT	like a call if I don't make a	lunch reservation		

Make checks payable to: Old Colorado City Historical Society
Mail to: 1 South 25th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

The El Paso Canal

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They purchased senior water rights, enough to control Fountain Creek. On August 4, 1871, the Fountain Colony made a contract for the digging of the very ambitious ditch, the El Paso Canal. Over the years, the ditch has been called the City Ditch, the El Paso County Ditch, the County Canal, the Colony Canal, and even some naughty names by people who could not use it but had to suffer because of its existence.

The eleven and a half miles of Canal began at the headgate on a pond on Fountain Creek, winding around various parts of the mesa, where Uintah Gardens Shopping Center is, around a mesa and Sondermann Park, and across Monument Creek on a large flume (which is a bridge that carries water) to what is now Columbia Street. The lateral ditch ran along Cascade Avenue. The initial portion of the ditch was completed on November 27, 1871. It was later extended to Evergreen Cemetery, probably in 1894. January 13, 1872 was the first time water was fed to Colorado Springs. That summer, Palmer began implementing plans, having Cottonwood trees from the Arkansas transplanted. He paid a nickel for a dozen to young boys to plant them along the ditch.

Critically important, Colorado City could not use the ditch. Nor did the Canal provide municipal water to Colorado Springs. However, people used Canal water if they did not have a well. In 1874, the grasshopper plague soured everything. Water had to

be brought in by barrels and sold by the bucket.

Since water here is sacred, riparian rights never existed in Colorado. Never doing anything truly illegitimate, Palmer maximized the laws very wisely and intelligently in a way that other people did not. So, in 1872-73, trees were growing along the margins of the streets - Cascade, Nevada, Tejon, and, maybe, Wahsatch (the exact location of many but not all the ditches are known). Colorado City had begun to wither; the great trans-shipment center days had passed, and its population of 160 did not compare to 1,600 people in Colorado Springs.

A house lot along the Canal guaranteed water rights from the Canal — a nice thing. In 1878, a separate system piped water into the house, although city water was not treated until 1942.

In 1872, Colorado Springs purchased rights in the Tinney ditch. It was abandoned because Monument Creek often did not have enough water. In 1894-97, the City built a reservoir. The population of 4,000 demanded a city water system.

Dr. Poulton showed pictures of the great March flood of 1935 and some of its destruction. The ditch was rebuilt 750 feet upstream and made larger. Today, the only thing left of the ditch is the eastern-most structure that supported the flume.

The El Paso Canal was later put into a concrete vault that was four feet wide and three feet deep, with a concrete cover on it, to appease the West Side. People were tired of 'losing' their chicken and kids.

Lots of these ditches still exist, under and throughout the West Side. Dr. Poulton invites anyone interested in a field study of these to join him in raising man-hole covers around the area, which surprisingly often are in people's backyards.

Dr. Poulton shared some new information he discovered. grand plan had been created by Robert Finley to create a reservoir, the Camp Creek Reservoir, to be half as big as Prospect Lake. Its location would have been in what is now Pleasant Valley, close to the Garden of the Gods. Mr. Finley and Sothers had bought minor water rights. In 1894 the city and Finley got into a discussion abou building the reservoir because it could have flooded this area. Mr. Finley never decreed these water rights, perhaps because he knew he would have trouble.

Sondermann Park was cited as a public, outdoor "museum" of El Paso Canal history. When the City bought the property, they did not realize that this property contains most of the indelible remains of the El Paso Canal, just as it was dug in 1871. Dr. Poulton conducts walking tours of this area, occasionally. He is planning one around July 15, for those interested. Of significance, there are flumes still existing. Some are metal and some wooden. In 1956, the ditch ceased operation. We are, fortunately, able to revisit the Canal er and imagine all the activities surrounding its operation.

by Marty Walker

FROM THE ARCHIVES OCCHS Events



Ralph Conner received this photograph of the church choir taken in our future History Center from Bert Stoddard, Photo Historian for the Bethany Baptist Church. We're guessing the time period to be between the 1920's and 1940's. If you know of anyone who was a member of this choir, please contact Ralph or Jan Knox to view the original photo to aid us in identifying choir members and the exact date this was taken.

TERRITORY DAYS - Bancroft Park Cabin, May 27, 28, and 29. Help is still needed for the Cabin, the "For Sale" tables of food and book items, and we badly NEED someone to supervise the FacePainters. Call Bev Disch, 634-5023 or Jan Knox, 689-2355, if you can help.

YICTORIAN TEA and FASHION SHOW - Briarhurst Manor Restaurant, Sunday, June 11, 1995, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Tickets will be \$25.00 each, \$10.00 of that is a tax deductible donation to the Building Fund.

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY - So many requests have been received for us to sponsor another mystery party that we are! Saturday evening, July 22, 1995, hopefully in our History Center at 1 S. 24th. Tickets will be \$10.00 each.

From The President's Desk

Growth in Membership

Our membership has certainly escalated this year. We are nearing 270 members in about a ten month period. We're proud of our membership. Many are offering to serve on committees or offering to do various tasks. Thanks so much for serving so that our History Center becomes a functioning Center shortly. (*Please note the graph on the next page.*)

The History Center

The State Historical Society has released the second payment after receiving all the proper documentation. The Second payment amounted to \$40,000.00. We have received a total of \$70,000.00. The last \$30,000.00 will be paid upon the completion of the building. Greer Studio has agreed to do part of the stained glass in the windows for the \$3,000 in the Murphy Constructors bid. However, this does not cover redoing the actual window frames which have decayed, nor the sashes. Owen Knox has been working on the task of rebuilding

or repairing them. A very special thank-you to the Greer Studios and to Owen Knox. A complete report will be made when the task is completed. There are still stained glass windows that will need to be put in. Anyone one wanting to purchase a stained glass window in memory of a loved one may do so by calling president, **Lucille D. Cunningham 630-7578**.

Audit Committee

Thank you, thank you to **Mr. Ed Bathke** and **Mr. Orrin Haynes** for doing the audit of the treasurer's books. The task was accomplished in record time. The treasurer, **Mary Jo Wallace**, does a great service in keeping all the various accounts straight. Thank you, Mary Jo.

El Pomar Grant

We have received permission from the **El Pomar** Foundation to use the entirety of the \$20,000.00

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From the President's Desk

con't from page 5

grant to remodel the office space of the History Center. The amount to remodel this section is \$20,000.00 according to a bid that has been received. We are most grateful for this grant as we will then be able to do the administrative tasks there at the building. We will place a plaque noting their contribution.

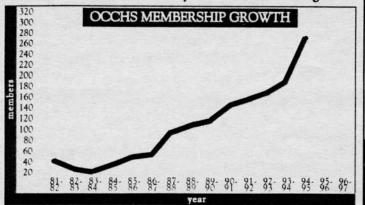
Patio Committee

We need to continue to raise funds to complete the History Center. It was suggested by Dr. Jerry **Jekel** that we make our patio located to the east of the building out of engraved brick. Michael Collins, our architect, indicated that was a very popular method of raising money. So much per brick would be charged. Anyone ordering a brick would have their name engraved on it. This would be a fascinating patio now and in future years. The Patio Committee was appointed at the General Meeting, April 14, 1995. The committee consists of Orrin Haynes, Dr. Jerry Jekel, Jack Patterson and Jim Rogers. This committee will meet shortly to establish just how large the patio can be, the cost to buy a brick, etc. You should receive that information by the next meeting.

Office Needs

Since we will be setting up our office in the History Center shortly, if you have anything which might be used in the office areas such as scissors, book shelves, typing table, work tables, book-ends, etc. let us know. Items such as these would be most appreciated. We especially need a copier. Tape Recorders are needed by the interview Committee.





Cloyd Barnes Visits OCCHS in May

Sculptor Will Present Proposal For New Statue

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University in 1968. After graduation he moved his family to New Mexico where he developed an increased interest in Western history and a desire to recreate it in art. He produced his first limited edition bronze sculptures in 1977.

He continued his art studies and production while pursuing a career in management/engineering with General Dynamics and later Dynalectron on White Sands Missile Range. A move to Denver in 1986 where he was employed by Martin Marietta provided greater art opportunities with accessibility to educational workshops and foundries. His art continues to reflect his interest in the American West and its wildlife. He has studies with a number of leading Western sculptors and participated in numerous selected shows and juried exhibitions. Cloyd has taken early retirement from Martin Marietta and sculpts full time in his studio in Littleton, CO.

His cougar "**Take Five**" has received five major awards including the Helen G. Oehler Memorial Award from the American Artists Professional League in New York. His other wildlife sculptors have also received awards.

Cloyd received a commission from Colorado College in 1992 for a "C. L. Tutt Lifesize Memorial Monument".

Following the program, luncheon will be served at 12:15 p.m. (NOTE THE TIME CHANGE DUE TO THE ELECTION OF PEOPLE TO THE VACANCIES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS).

Reservations are due by Tuesday, MAY 9, 1995. Call **LYN OWEN** at 473-1846. Please give your name and phone number clearly when leaving a message for Lyn.

(I wish to thank our member, George Fisher, for securing Cloyd Barnes as a program for OCCHS and helping with the writeup for the program.)

by Jan Knox

VOLUNTEER

WESTSIDE MEMORIES TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

One Hundred Years Ago MAY 1895

- It is rumored that the Broadmoor Casino will be opened about June 25, on a liberal plan. Just what is meant by "a liberal plan" is hard to tell unless one happens to stand in with the management.
- Now that the street car line has been extended to the Iron springs and Cog depot, above Manitou, there will be a heavier travel than ever before on that line. The Sunday service on this piece of road has never been what it should be, so far as Colorado City people are concerned. It is not an uncommon occurrence to see scores of our people standing on the corners, on a pleasant Sunday afternoon awaiting an opportunity to get to Manitou, but are unable to find footing on the overloaded cars. The cause is easy to explain, the cars are loaded before they leave Colorado Springs. What is needed is a half hour service between this city and Manitou on Sunday afternoons and a like service between this city and Colorado Springs on the occasion of large public gatherings and celebrations.
- The old hose house that has for years stood in the center of West First street, was pulled out today.
- The oil well rig has been shipped to Rocky Ford where a hole will be put down for artesian water.
- Superintendent Penhallow has finished the school census. There are 590 persons of school age in the district, an increase of 7 from last year.
- The street car company is preparing to double their track all the way to Manitou. This improvement necessitates the building of several new bridges.
- Jacob Schmidt, our popular baker, is opening up some good mineral on his Cripple Creek property.
- Tuesday night four prisoners escaped from the city jail. They removed a large rock from the wall with the aid of a piece of wire and squeezed through the hole. One prisoner refused to leave the jail, and was rewarded by being set ee Wednesday. This was the first escape from the jail since its completion.
- Herman Freund's delivery horse got away from Jim Wilcox, the drive,

Saturday. Marshal Neiswinter arrested the boy on the charge of carelessness and brought him before the police magistrate who discharged him.

- The Midland boys are sincerely hoping to get back on the nine hour system again.
- The library fund of the public schools has reached the sum of eighty dollars, the proceeds of entertainments given by the different rooms. Supt. Penhallow has contributed Scribner's, Harper's, the Century and the Cosmopolitan magazines each month since November.
- The fire board of this city purchased the hose cart of the Matt France company's at Colorado Springs for the Indian reservation. The cart was brought over Saturday.
- The writer is of the opinion that the people of this city do not appreciate the beauty of Colorado avenue now that the trees have put on their mantles of green. To one who has been residing high up in the hills, it is indeed a pleasant sight to look up the broad beautiful street just as the sun is sinking in the west. Plant more trees. It is the best investment property owners can make.

Seventy-five Years Ago MAY 1920

- Due to a delay in the arrival here of equipment for the new branch post office in the West End, the opening has been postponed a few days. It had been planned to move yesterday from the present location in the National hotel building to the McIntosh building at 1512 West Colorado avenue.
- The Cripple Creek Short Line railroad will cease operations on Monday, May 17. About July 1, a curtailed train service will be resumed for tourist purposes only. Trains will be run to Summit, about one mile below Rosemont, through the season. This section of the Short Line route embraces some of the most magnificent scenery along the right-of-way which has long been known as one of the most attractive in the world.
- Adna R. Scovill, 73, a veteran of the civil war, died Thursday morning (April 29) at his home, 2506 West St. Vrain street. Burial will be in Evergreen cemetery. He is survived by his wife

and four children.

• The Pikes Peak auto races, which drew hundreds of visitors from all parts of the country when they were inaugurated in 1916, will be revived this summer. The Chamber of Commerce will undertake the staging of the event.

compiled by Jan Knox

Fifty Years Ago MAY 1945

- Colorado Springs residents observed a rare sight Wednesday (5/16) when, as described, a "falling star" split and created a weird pyrotechnical display in the general direction of Ute Pass about 8:30 p.m.
- John A. Miller, 73, 1112 W. Colorado avenue, made his last run as conductor for the Rock Island railroad Sunday. He retired after 54 years of railroading. After working with several railroads, starting in St. Louis in 1891, he came west in 1901 and has been with the Rock Island since.
- Lt. Eldon Syme, son of Mrs. George Syme, 2316 W. Platte Ave., is presumed freed from a German prisoner-of-war camp at Rostock by the Russians. He worked in the office of the Golden Cycle mill for seven years.
- "Tom Sawyer" operette will be presented by the sixth grade 0f Bristol school tonight. Miss Lida Kennedy is director of dramatics and dances. Miss Pauline Anderson is in charge of music.
- Pfc. Edward Chonka, son of Mrs. John Chonka, 2528 Bott ave., entered the service in July and is now in Europe. He has three brothers in the Armed Forces, Charles, Albert and Paul.

Twenty Five Years Ago MAY 1970

- The Glenn Miller Orchestra (17 pieces) under the direction of Buddy De Franco will provide shows and music for dancing May 10 at The Magnificent Merry Go Round Nite Club, 3020 W. Colorado avenue.
- Actor George Hamilton and character actor Jesse White arrived in Colorado Springs for the premier of "Togetherness" at the Chief.

Dr. Robert Smith's Book Is Now In Bookstores

University Press of the University of Colorado has published a book co-authored by member Dr Robert Smith. **Tom Patterson: Colorado Crusader for Change** tells the story of a flamboyant lawyer, investor and newspaper publisher who was conspicous in Colorado politics around the turn of the century.

Patterson was perhaps the best criminal lawyer west of the Mississippi (see **West Word**, April 1990), worked for labor and the common man, helped Colorado achieve statehood, served in Washington as representative and senator, owned the **Rocky Mountain News** and other Denver papers, was a maverick among politicians and a reformer in Denver government. The book rescues a man, well-known and colorful, from neglect.

Dr. Smith collaborated with Patterson's great granddaughter, Sybil Downing, in creating the 288- page hardback (24 illustrations, \$24.95).

Dr. Smith will conduct a book-signing May 4th, from 3 P.M. to 4:30 P.M., at the Colorado College bookstore, basement of Warner Center at Cascade and Cache La Poudre. It's also available at other bookstores.

Dr. Smith is a life member of OCCHS, and belongs to other local history organizations and the Organization of American Historians. Patterson was the subject of Dr. Smith's PhD dissertation and of several articles in professional journals.

by Ralph Conner

IT'S IN THE MAIL

If you have not yet completed your 1995 OCCHS Survey and sent it to Marty Walker, please do so as soon as possible. Many, many thanks to those of you who have already responded.

RECIPES**RECIPES**RECIPES

Please, members—and friends—send me recipes—at least one, with a brief paragraph about each recipe. It could be a family story or a historical one. (Perhaps a sugarless recipe from the early '40s or an inexpensive one from the Depression years.)

In exchange, you will receive a favorite recipe of mine. I'm hoping that this will be an ongoing project, with more than one volume of our cookbook coming out of it. We want to be selling the **Recipe Exchange Cookbook** at the OCCHS Book/Gift Shop his fall, you know!

Send your recipe with name and address to: **Kay Arnold,** RECIPE EXCHANGE COOKBOOK, One South 24th Street, Colorado Springs CO 80904-3319.

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET COLORADO SPRINGS, GO 80904-3319

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